XVII. *The Caſe of a Woman big with Child, who recovered of the* Small-Pox, *and was afterwards delivered of a dead Child full of the Puſtules of that Diſtemper. In a Letter from the Reverend* Mr. W. Derham, F. R. S. *to* Dr. Hans Sloane, S. R. Secr.

Upminſter, October 7. 1713

SIR,

THERE was, in the Pariſh next me, a Great-bellied Woman who had the Small-Pox, and was pretty well recovered, ſo that ſhe was able to take ſomething to Purge her after it: And on *Auguſt* 30. laſt, ſhe took a Purge (I know not what) which did not work; and on *September* the 1*ſt*, another Purge, which gave her only a Stool or two. Upon which, *September* the 3d, ſhe took another ſtronger Purge, that work'd ſo violently upwards and downwards, that ſhe fell into Faintings and Convulſions: about which time I conceive her Child within her died, but of which ſhe was not deliver'd till *September* the 8*th*. The Child was a Female, and in appearance well made, luſty and ſtrong. At its Delivery, the Midwife judged it had been dead five or ſix Days; ſo that the Belly was burſt, and the Bowels came out, and the whole Body was inclining to be rotten.

But that which ſeem'd moſt remarkable to me, and indeed occaſioned me to take Notice of the Caſe, was, That the Child was very full of the Small Pox, ſo full, that the Midwife ſaid, hardly a Pins-head could be put between the Bliſters, which were very Plump, and full

of

of Matter, like the Puſtules of an Adult, whenthe Small-Pox is at the Height, only a little depreſſed in the middle. But as full as the Child was, the Mother had as few, and very favourably; her Child, I ſuppoſe, undergoing that which would have been more ſevere upon her.

Having thus related the Caſe to you, as the Midwife told it me, I ſhall leave it to you, and ſuch good Judges as your ſelf, to determine theſe two Things,

I. When a Woman hath the Small-Pox in Pregnancy, Whether it be likely that the Child ſhould be in danger of catching and having that Diſtemper after its Birth?

II. Whether the Child I have been ſpeaking of, had the Small-Pox at the very ſame time the Mother had it, and not rather afterwards, by reaſon the Child was full of it ſome time after the Mother was well recovered?

I am inclined to think, that the great Flux and tendency of the Blood to the Child in the Womb, might draw in the Humour, and prevent the greater Eruption of the Small-Pox in the Mother; and that for want of a due Expence thereof, the remainder afterwards broke out in the Child, and that the Child really had it after the Mother; Nature making the Diſcharges upon the Child which were not compleated on the Mother. But I fear I ſhall need your Pardon for preſuming to interpoſe my Judgment before ſo great a Judge—— I am, *&c.*

W. Derham.

XVIII. *Se-*